

THE BRITISH COLLEGE OF NURSES.

The ninety-first Meeting of the Council of the British College of Nurses was held on Saturday, September 22nd, 1934 at 39, Portland Place, London, W., at 2.15 p.m.

Miss Margaret Breay, F.B.C.N., Senior Vice President, was in the Chair, and there were present: Miss Isabel Macdonald, Vice President, Miss M. G. Allbutt, Miss A. M. Bushby, Miss F. M. Campbell, Miss J. C. Cowie, Miss E. L. Macaulay, O.B.E., R.R.C., Fellows, and Miss H. G. Ballard, D.N., and Miss E. F. Eburah, Members.

Prayers having been read by the Secretary, the Minutes of the last Meeting were confirmed.

Miss Breay, on rising, reported the following message from the President:—

"Please convey to the Council my very sincere regrets at inability to attend the Meeting, and explain my long and distressing illness, I want them to know how sincerely grateful I am to Miss Graham for her most kind and skilful treatment during the acute stage of my illness."

It was proposed by Miss Macdonald that a message of sympathy be conveyed to the President, expressing the hope that she would soon be restored to health.

Miss Bushby proposed that flowers should accompany the message, which was agreed with acclamation.

It was agreed that a letter of thanks and appreciation be sent to Miss D. K. Graham.

Regrets for absence were received from Miss M. S. Cochrane.

WELCOME TO NEW MEMBERS.

Miss Breay expressed pleasure on behalf of the Council in welcoming two new members present, Miss E. L. Macaulay and Miss E. F. Eburah.

BUSINESS ARISING OUT OF THE MINUTES.

A letter from Miss I. Macdonald expressing her pleasure on her election as Vice President of the College.

DEPARTMENTAL COMMITTEE ON TRAINING OF NURSES IN SCOTLAND.

(a) The following reply to a communication from the Council had been received from Mr. Mercer, Secretary to this Committee:—

Department of Health for Scotland,
Edinburgh 2.

1st August, 1934.

Dear Madam,—I am in receipt of your letter of 25th ultimo informing me of the decision of your Council reached at its meeting on 21st ultimo not to submit evidence before the above Committee.

I must take strong exception to the view expressed by you that, because the sessions of the Committee will not be open to the public and the press, and because the evidence will not be published, the "Report issued will not possess the value of reasoned opinion." The Committee in discharging its functions will endeavour to maintain the utmost impartiality, and you may rest assured that this impartiality will be in no way impaired by the holding of the sessions in private rather than in public. The evidence submitted to the Committee will be carefully weighed, and the Report to be officially published at the end of the enquiry will be a reasoned reflex of such evidence.

It is accordingly most important that the Committee should have the opportunity of hearing all points of view. The enquiry is being undertaken, in the interests of nurses, in an attempt to improve the present system of training and registration in Scotland and it would be regrettable if an influential body such as the British College of Nurses should, for what would appear to be rather insufficient reasons, fail to put forward the views of their constituents and thus possibly deprive the Committee of aspects of the question not dealt with by other witnesses.

In these circumstances, I hope your Council may see their way to reconsider their decision, and favour the Committee with a Memorandum on the subject of the enquiry.

Yours faithfully,
(Signed) W. T. MERCER,

Secretary to the Committee.

The Secretary was directed to send the following reply.

The British College of Nurses,
39, Portland Place, London, W.1.
1st October, 1934.

Dear Sir,—Your letter of August 1st was placed before the Council of the British College of Nurses at its Meeting on September 22nd. I was directed to inform you that the decision of the Council conveyed in its letter of July 25th to the Departmental Committee on Training of Nurses for Scotland, not to accept the invitation to give evidence or to send a memorandum on the Subject under discussion, for reasons stated, was unanimously re-affirmed.

I am,

Yours faithfully,

(Signed) ALICE STEWART BRYSON.

Secretary.

To W. T. Mercer, Esq., Secretary, Departmental Committee on Training of Nurses,
Department of Health for Scotland, Edinburgh, 2.

The reasons which influenced the Council in declining to give evidence before the Departmental Committee on the Training of Nurses in Scotland, were (1) That it disapproved of the exclusion of the public and the Press from hearing the evidence placed before a Departmental Committee financed by the State, upon which the Report would be based, and (2) that the Committee as constituted did not adequately represent the Nursing profession and should therefore not be empowered to issue a Report on Training of Nurses in Scotland.

The following documents were reported on the subject.

Copy of article written by Miss I. Macdonald, and published in *The Glasgow Herald* in reply to letter published in that paper on July 26th, *re* "the Committee on Scottish Nursing."

Letter from Miss J. C. Cowie *re* the communication sent from the Council to the Departmental Committee on Training of Nurses (for Scotland) published in THE BRITISH JOURNAL OF NURSING.

CORRESPONDENCE.

Letter of thanks from a member for Benevolent Grant of £10 sent during her illness.

Letter from Miss G. Saddler stating that she has successfully passed the Examination of the Central Midwives Board, and conveying thanks to the Council for the Grant of £35 which enabled her to take the training.

Letters of thanks from members of the College for personal help.

Letter from Miss A. A. Byrne, S.R.N., Matron, Mental Hospital, Bethlehem, Palestine, stating "We have not an organisation or association of nurses to represent our interests to the Director of Medical Services or to send to Meetings of the International Council of Nurses, and I would much like to establish an Association of Nurses here," and asking for advice.

On receiving this letter, the Council took action in the following sense:—

In reply to an enquiry sent to the Foreign Office, whether there are any Hospital Training Schools for Nurses in Palestine, a reply has been received from the Under Secretary of State, Colonial Office, London, that enquiry is being made by them on the matter.

Letter from Miss E. E. Ward, F.B.C.N., Mildura District Hospital, Victoria, Australia, stating it is hoped to open the new Hospital in August.

Letters *re* accommodation for chronic cases received from (a) Miss Ellen L. Smith, M.B.C.N., who has accommodation for chronic cases at £3 3s. per week at "Inverholm," 6, Parkfield Avenue, Hillingdon, and

(b) Miss E. J. Baldwin, M.B.C.N., 57, Dyke Road, Brighton, who would be glad to take chronic cases, or anyone requiring a holiday.

Particulars (with covering letter) from the Clerk, L.C.C. of proposals in regard to scales of salaries and conditions

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